

AMENDMENTS

In the Drawings:

Please replace Figure 3 with the attached sheet, which has been amended to include the legend "Prior Art."

Attachment: Replacement sheet for Figure 3

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending in this application. Applicant has amended claim 1 and canceled claim 2. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to. A replacement sheet for Figure 3 is attached to overcome this objection.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Ito U.S. Patent No. 6,583,819. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Tsuchida U.S. Patent No. 6,559,439. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ito and Hasegawa U.S. Patent No. 6,217,796. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Tsuchida and Kimura U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0057358. Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ito and Nakamura U.S. Patent No. 7,126,637. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections with respect to the claims, as amended.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a number of elements in combination. A camera module includes an image sensor chip comprising a semiconductor chip having a photoelectronic transducer formed on a surface of the semiconductor chip and a filter portion disposed on the photoelectronic transducer so as to block light incident on the filter portion at a predetermined range of wavelength and a lens disposed above the image sensor chip. The filter portion is configured to provide mechanical support to the semiconductor chip regardless of the orientation of the semiconductor chip. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, for example, in former claim 2 and on pages 1 and 2 of applicant's specification.

This same combination of elements is neither disclosed nor suggested by Ito, Tsuchida or any of the other cited references, viewed alone or in combination. For example, the Action states that Ito's filter portion would provide mechanical support to the semiconductor chip only if Ito's entire camera body 20 were rotated so that the filter rested atop the CCD chip. That is not the claimed combination.

Turning to Tsuchida, the Action relies on Fig. 24 and col. 32-35 of Tsuchida's specification. However, the cited parts of Tsuchida merely disclose that "IR cut filter 80 is attached to the chip 62." Thus, Tsuchida does not teach or suggest a filter portion disposed on the photoelectronic transducer and does not teach or suggest that the filter portion is configured to provide mechanical support to the semiconductor chip regardless of the orientation of the semiconductor chip.

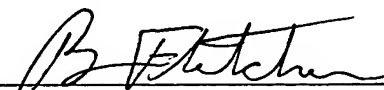
Thus, amended claim 1 is patentable over Ito and Tsuchida, and the rejections should be withdrawn. This logic also disposes of the rejections of claims 3-7, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant solicits early action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **606402015500**.

Respectfully submitted,

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